Non-deposit of employer's EPF share by contractors

*246. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of contractors do not deposit regularly/properly the employer's share of EPF contribution and as a result thereof, workers are unable to get the benefits of their EPF contributions;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the number of defaulting contractors and the number of the affected contract workers in each State; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) As the Schemes framed under the Employees' Provident funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 do not distinguish an employee employed by an employer either directly or through a contractor, nor separate data in respect of contractors is maintained by the Employees' Provident Fund Organization. However, all employees, whether employed by an employer directly or through a contractor in connection with the work of a covered establishment, are entitled to become members of the employees' Provident Fund and to avail benefits thereof. The total oustanding dues of all the establishements (including contractors), as on 31.03.2005, are Rs. 2144.82 crore.

(c) wherever default in respect of such employees is noticed, action in accordance with provisions of the Act are taken. This includes assessment of dues under section 7A and recovery thereof by way of prosecution under section 14, filing of complaints under section 406/409 of IPC, attachment of movable/immovable property and arrest of defaulters.

Uniform Labour Policy

†*247. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is fact that the country needs a uniform labour policy acceptable to all;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether it is also a fact that different labour laws have been implemented by different departments in the name of labour reforms; and

(d) if so, the details of such departments indicating the variation in labour laws applicable therein?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Labour and Employment is mandated to create a work environment conducive to achieving a high rate of economic growth with due regard to protecting and safeguarding the interests of the workers. The Ministry seeks to achieve this objective through implementation of an array of labour legislations. India's labour policy is mainly based on labour laws. The Ministry has always been committed to the ethos and culture of tripartism. The Ministry continues to have consultation with the social partners to obtain a consensus for enacting new laws or bringing about changes in the existing laws.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Unorganised Sector Worker's Social Security Scheme

*248. SHRI CHITTABRATA MAJUMDAR:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the Unorganised Sector Worker's Social Security Scheme launched by his Ministry during 2004;

(b) how many members have been enrolled under the said scheme and the amount of contributions realized; and

(c) how much expenditure has incurred so far for implementing the said scheme?